A CHAMBER OF HORRORS.

How the Room of an Indiana Boy Naturalist is Decorated—The Strange Country Through Which he Traveled—Wonders from the Brazilian Forests—An Intrepid Youth.

[From the New York Sun.]

There were ten human heads dangling on the top of ebony sticks placed about a bed-room in Moore's Hotel in Fulton Street, Brooklyn, last night, and a sickly odor of a tropical plant pervaded the room. Ernest Morris, the Indiana boy naturalist, who is twenty years old, sat in a tattered suit at a small table. An attendant, who introduced the reporter, removed from each head a white cloth, and exposed the grim, tattooed faces of men and women. They have been preserved like life from six months to over two or three years. The teeth were gone, the eyes had been pulled out, and in their stead were sockets filled with balls of black wax, but the hair hung as natural as on the living human head. "These heads," explained Mr. Morris, belonged to South American Indians, and were preserved by the Mundurucu nation as our native Indian preserves scalps among their trophies of war. They are the first that have ever been brought to this country, and the first, I believe, that were ever taken from South America, except three which were picked up by traders from a civilized tribe of Indians. Two of these were taken to France and one to England. I returned on Sunday from my second trip to the Brazils, and I have in these heads my proof that I penetrated a region in the south of Brazil where the face of a white man had not been seen before. The Rio Tapajos, which is a tributary to the Amazon, is well known. It has for its tributaries the Rio San Manuel, the Rio Juenna, and the Rio Corruru. Prof. Hart never went above Itainba, on the Rio Tapajos, and when I got there I was warned to stop. There were twenty-three falls to ascend, and I was told that the region was wild, the tribes of Indians savage, and the climate almost fatal to the white man, and no trade winds swept up the Tapajos, as on the Amazon.

"I got a Mundurucu boy and a boat and I determined to see the country which no naturalist had ever seen. I passed up the falls and went up the Rio Curruru, a journey of six days. Then leaving my boat, I started with my boy across the campos to look up these wild tribes. The country through which we went was a wild waste of prairie, with here and there islands of jungles, rich in tropical foliage. After we had proceeded for two days and a half, living on monkeys, parrots and macaws, suffering every thing from the bites of the swarms of insects, we saw signs of the savage tribes. I was proceeding ahead and prospecting, when suddenly I heard a cackle in the bushes, and saw six naked savages with their bows drawn and their white pointed arrows aimed at my body. My heart leaped, and I shrieked out in the language my guide had taught me, 'Don't shoot a friend, a brother.' I at once approached them with the gewgaws, of which I had a stock, and I bought their bows for a knife and a few pocket mirrors. They conducted me into their village, but before the other savages welcomed me they sent me out some 'dawn' cakes, which I could smell before they reached me. These were very offensive, but I was told that if I did not eat them the chief would not permit me to come to the village. I ate, but it was a forced meal. I am told that this food, which is made up in a quantity and kept in cakes, can be smelled ten miles off, but I do not believe this.

"I discovered that there were about two thousand and three hundred of these Mundurucus. They have no employment, and they seem to live to make war on the five tribes about them, which inhabit the country between the San Manuel and the Juenna. Only one of these tribes, so far as I could learn, are cannibals. These eat the brains of their enemies. The Mundurucus are men of large stature. They let their hair grow very long, and, as you will observe from these heads of their neighbors, the hair is soft. They shave their foreheads, pushing the hair back as far as possible. They are entirely nude; but the chiefs and the warriors, when they go to battle, wear about their loins a girdle, which is made of the shell of a nut, cut to about the size and shape of a lead pencil point, drilled through with a fish bone, and strung by the thousands on a string made of the inner pith of a tree. They wind this girdle round and round their bodies, using up two or three hundred feet of the string in one girdle. There are no marriages among them. The women live together in one part of the village, and the men in another. Each man is at liberty every morning to select any woman he wants for the day, but the chief has always the first choice. The weapons of war consist of the Indian club, and a bow and arrow. The warriors are unerring in their aim. The barb of the arrow is made of a curved bone taken from a monkey. Both of its points are exposed, so that when it is driven into the flesh it is impossible to draw it out without greatly increasing the wound. Much time is spent in preparing for war. When they make an attack on the enemy they at once seize the wounded and dead of their foe, and speed away with them. At a proper distance they cut the head off of each body close to the shoulders, rake out the brains and all the flesh they can, and then hasten back to their own village to begin the work of preservation before the flesh begins to mortify. The teeth of the heads are all pulled out for necklaces. The eyes are plucked out, and then the heads are smoked over a fire made of carrocopowpow root, which has the property of making dead flesh crumble. It was very difficult for me to learn the name of the root, and I was wholly unable to find the tree from which it was taken. I managed to steal one piece of it from the hut where it was concealed. As the smoke of the root acts on the flesh it shrinks the skin to the bone, so that the skin of the neck draws over the base of the head like the head of a drum. The hole that remains in the center is left open to receive the ebony stick, on which each warrior carries a head. When the hair is too long it is cut off for the decoration of the bows. The eyes are filled with this black wax, in which these parallel fish-bones are placed, in imitation of the natural eye. These heads are used to decorate the huts of the village. They last a lifetime, and as they accumulate they are buried. They are prized very little after their annual feast, which lasts two or three days, and as I happened there then I was able to buy these for a few trinkets."

Each one of the ghastly trophies, over which the young naturalist grew so enthusiastic, had a coil of twine fastened into each ear, and from some of these dangled long strips of beautiful feathers, golden, crimson, and purple, from the plumage of the birds of the Brazilian forest. The ears, Mr. Morris explained, were pierced in youth, and the twine run in and out of the holes and wrapped in coils to receive the decorations. The head of a chief of the Para-be-te-te tribe had around its forehead a beautiful head-dress of golden feathers from the macaw, which he had worn as a mark of distinction. One head, that of an old man of about sixty years, was filled with red paint, which on being removed in some places revealed the gray hair, which it had been used to hide. A head of one savage was not wholly cured. The marks of the club which caused his death are yet on the back of the head. There are also in the collection the heads of two or three women, but it would puzzle a novice to distinguish them from the others. A number of naturalists have visited Mr. Morris since his arrival, and several persons have offered him large sums for one of his heads, but he has refused them. He expects to carry them to his home in Indianapolis, and then to return to South America for further explorations. He goes out under the patronage of no one but his father, and has not visited Rio Janeiro for any Government favors.

—A Simpleton, having had Occasion to seat himself, sat down on a Pin; whereupon he made an Outcry unto Jupiter. A Philosopher, who happened to be holding up a Hitching-Post in the vicinity, rebuked him, saying: "I can tell you how to avoid hurting youself by sitting down on Pins, and will, if you set them up." The Simpleton eagerly accepting the Offer; the Philosopher swallowed four fingers of the Rum that perisheth, and replied, "Never sit down." He subsequently acquired a vast fortune by advertising for Agents, to whom he guaranteed $77 a Week for light and easy Employment at their Homes. Moral—The Wise Man saith: "There is a Nigger in the Fence," but the Fool Sendeth on 50 Cents for Sample and is Taken in.

Cleopatra's Needle, and Its Proposed Voyage to London.

The "needle" is 69 feet long, and 8 feet square—not uniformly, but at the base. It weighs about 220 tons, and lies in the sand 16 feet above high water line. To get this mass safely into the sea and across the sea, it is intended to build up round it on shore a cylindrical iron case or ship, and then to roll the entire mass, nearly 300 tons, into the Mediterranean, and when the necessary ballasting and additions have been made to the ship in dry dock, to have her towed to England. The iron vessel is now being made at the Thames iron works, and when ready will be sent out here in pieces, to be be built round the obelisk, under the superintendence of Waynman Dixon, brother to John Dixon, the enterprising designer and contractor. The vessel must be considerably longer than the obelisk, because of the shape of the stone. It will be 92 feet long and 15 feet in diameter, with plates ¾ inch thick. It will be divided into 9 water-tight compartments by 8 bulkheads, total weight of iron 75 tons. To lift the ends of the obelisk, jacks of immense power will have to be sent from England, and after the cylinder is built tremendous tackle will be required to roll it into the sea. it will float in 9 feet water, and to reach this depth it must be rolled 400 feet. Once afloat and in dock, it will be fitted with bilge keels, rudder, and steering gear. It will be cutter-rigged, with one mast and two sails, and will have a deck-house for Mr. Carter, who will have charge of it on the voyage, for although it will be in tow of a steamer, it will be in every respect a ship, and able to take care of itself for a time in case of accident, or breaking away from the tow lines, which are to be of steel wire. There will be four or five men on board to make sail, pump bilge water, trim lights, and make signals in case of need. In the opinion of eminent engineers the plan proposed is admirably adapted for the work to be done, and Mr. Dixon's confidence is shown in the fact that should he fail to complete his task he will receive nothing for his outlay and trouble. If, however, the undertaking is a success, the entire expense will be borne by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, the eminent surgeon. Immense care and nicety will have to be exercised in obtaining the necessary strength and rigidity; the obelisk must be so packed, forming with the iron cylinder one solid mass, as to avoid any strain from the rolling into the water, or from the heavy working of the ship afterward. I presume the most anxious part of the work will be to get the vessel and her precious cargo into the sea. Once afloat, other difficulties will be mastered. Three thousand five hundred years ago this obelisk formed one of the pillars in front of the great temple of Tum (the setting sun) at Heliopolis (near Cairo), and was brought to Alexandria during the reign of Cleopatra. No accounts exist of the appliances used, but if this and larger monuments could be safely moved about some 1600 B. C., it is not possible to doubt our ability to do likewise in the 19th century A. D.—*London News.*

Popular Misinformation About Paris Green.

State Assayer Hayes, of Massachusetts, publishes a warning against the use of Paris green for the destruction of potato bugs. He says that there is danger, in the common mode of digging potatoes, that the poisoned earth may adhere to the tubers, and through lack of careful washing before using, prove fatal. He also speaks of the danger attending the presence of a poison in the household.

In regard to these cautions Prof. Chadler, President of the Board of Health, says: "There is just as much danger in having Paris green in a house as there is in having a loaded revolver, or any other deadly weapon. It does not poison the potatoes, but it would impregnate with poison lettuce or salad that is to be eaten raw, and therefore too much care can not be taken in its use, and every precaution should be taken to prevent it being deposited by the wind on other plants. The subject has been discussed by the Board of Health, and it has been decided that of the two evils, Paris green and potato bugs, the former is less, and therefore we have sent out no warning against its use. We have, however, strictly prohibited its sale at retail in the city. I do not consider its use so dangerous but that the unchecked ravages of the bug would be infinitely more so.

The odrinary Paris or imperial green which is used in the war against the bugs is scientifically an aceto arsenite of copper. It is the same green commonly supposed to be so dangerous when used in coloring wall paper. In Watt's Chemical Dictionary this popular superstition is treated as follows:

This compound is much used as a pigment, on account of its splendid green color. A great deal of needless alarm has lately been excited about the supposed deleterious effects of this pigment. It is extensively used for staining wall papers, and persons inhabiting rooms thus prepared are said to have had their health seriously deranged by the arsenical fumes evolved from it. Now, it is utterly impossible that arsenic should volatilize from such a compound at ordinary temperatures. It does not decompose at any temperature below redness. The only way in which danger could arise from the use of paper stained with an arsenical color is that particles of the compound might be brushed off in dusting the paper, and thus become mixed with the air of the apartment; but it is not in this way that the supposed accidents are said to have occured. The panic has arisen from a mistaken notion as to the volatility of the arsenic. That the use of the pigment is not really dangerous may be safely inferred from the fact that no bad effects are experienced by the workmen engaged in its manufacture.

A Kansas Man Heir to $250,000.

For some days it has been rumored that our estimable citizen of this place, Mr. Robert Proctor, who recently went to Texas to engage temporarily in the book business, had fallen heir to a fortune in Scotland. If we are rightly informed, Mr. Proctor has been summoned to Scotland to attend personally to the adjustment of the fortune to which he has, by a singular chain of circumstances, become an heir. An outline of these circumstances we find in the Boston *Traveller* of May 23, and are as follows:

A romantic story is being told about a Scotch doctor. There was, until lately, living a Miss Macpherson Grant, one of the wealthiest heiresses in Scotland. Originally only the daughter of a Scotch country doctor, she became by a singular train of events sole heiress to her uncle, an Indian nabob, who had made a large fortune in India last century. She formed a great friendship with another lady, and the two agreed that they would live together for the rest of their lives, and never marry; and Miss Grant named her friend as heiress. The compact was observed for many years; but Cupid proved stronger than Plutus, and her companion gave herself up to the tempter, man, and married. From that time Miss Grant refused to speak to her, and, though they had lived together in the same house, and slept in the same bed for many years, Miss Grant revoked her will and left not a penny to her old friend, and died intestate. The result is that Miss Grant's cousin, Mr. Proctor, her next kin, has come into one of the most beautiful estates in Scotland, and money to between £50,000 and £80,000. Four other relatives, who were in poor circumstances, come into about £50,000 each.

Mr. Proctor was here yesterday, and visited Gen. Pope for the purpose of getting his son, Alex. MacPherson Proctor, discharged from the army. The latter is at present serving out his second year of a five years' enlistment in Company B, 23d Infantry, at Fort Riley. The old gentleman expects to leave for Scotland within two weeks to get possession of his fortune.—*Leavenworth Times.*

THE Ottoman Empire, inclusive of the tributary States, comprises, according to Baron de Worms, 13,000,000 Turks, 1,500,000 Arabs, 600,000 Tartars, Turkomans and Zingarees, 5,123,000 Roumanians, 2,000,000 Greeks, 4,800,000 Bulgarians, 500,000 Servians and 800,000 Bulgarians professing the Mohammedan faith. In Servia there are 450,000 Roman Catholics, and 100,000 in Albania. Altogether, the total population reaches 52,092,068, but this is inclusive of nearly 11,000,000 Nubians, 5,000,000 Egyptians, and 8,000,000 Roumanians, Greeks and Servians.